For The Period July 1, 2008 Through June 30, 2009



### CRIT LUALLEN AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS www.auditor.ky.gov

209 ST. CLAIR ST. FRANKFORT, KY 40601-1817 TELEPHONE (502) 564-5841 FACSIMILE (502) 564-2912



### AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

September 14, 2010

Reecie Stagnolia, Vice President Kentucky Adult Education Council on Postsecondary Education 1024 Capital Center Drive, Suite 250 Frankfort, KY 40601

Ed Story, President & CEO Maysville Community and Technical College 1755 US Highway 68 Maysville, KY 41056

Re: Adult Education Grants

Dear Mr. Stagnolia and Dr. Story:

This report contains the results of the performance audit of Maysville Community and Technical College's administration of Mason County's adult education grant for the fiscal year (FY) ending June 30, 2009. The Council on Postsecondary Education and Kentucky Adult Education contracted with this office to conduct performance audits of selected local adult education programs. This report represents our findings, recommendations, and the program's responses.

The Auditor of Public Accounts conducted this performance audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

We greatly appreciate the courtesies and cooperation extended to our staff during the audit.

Respectfully submitted,

**Auditor of Public Accounts** 

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) and Kentucky Adult Education (KYAE) selected the Mason County adult education program for a limited scope performance audit of its adult education grant. The Maysville Community and Technical College is responsible for the administration of this grant. An on-site review was conducted on April 5, 2010 through April 8, 2010, to address the following objectives:

- Determine whether the local program's expenditures comply with the terms of their grant agreement and reconcile to invoices submitted.
- Reconcile student and faculty data electronically submitted to KYAE through the Adult Education Reporting Information Network (AERIN).
- Determine whether the local program's professional development activities comply with the FY 2008-2009 professional development policies and procedures.
- Report internal control weaknesses identified during our audit that relate to the audit's objectives.

To accomplish these objectives, the performance audit team reviewed the Policy and Procedure Manual for Kentucky Adult Education, as well as the local program's grant proposal and final agreement with KYAE. During the on-site review, the audit team reviewed the program's accounting records (trial balance/general ledger), interviewed program administrators regarding internal controls related to the above grants, and tested samples of expenditure documentation, participant files, and personnel files for compliance with applicable requirements.

Below is the summary of findings:

#### FINDINGS SUMMARY

	Disallowed
Finding	Costs
One participant's file did not contain evidence to support that goals were met as reported in AERIN.	N/A
One participant file did not contain documentation of the Steck-Vaughn Official Practice Test scores averaging 450 prior to the participant taking the General Educational Development (GED).	N/A
One participant file did not show documentation of having children when enrolled in the Family Literacy Program. The participant should have been enrolled in the Corrections Program.	N/A

### RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### FINANCIAL REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE

### **Scope and Methodology**

The KYAE-10 Expenditure Reports were compared to the line item budget approved in the final agreement. This comparison was used to determine whether the program's reimbursements complied with the approved budget.

The KYAE-10 Expenditure Reports were then compared to the local program's internally generated financial records. This comparison was used to determine whether the program's accounting records support the total amount requested for reimbursement on the KYAE-10 Expenditure Reports.

### **Findings**

No exceptions were noted.

#### PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY AND RECORD KEEPING

### Scope and Methodology

A total of 60 participants were selected randomly from the electronic student data sent from KYAE. Documentation maintained in the participant files was compared to the electronic student data. We examined the files for the following:

- Proper eligibility documentation.
- Proper assessment testing.
- Evidence to support the achievement of goals/objectives reported to KYAE.
- Other requirements based upon the applicable program requirements.

The participants tested received services during the period from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

#### **Findings**

Proper file maintenance and accurate data entry is important to support and document participant data submitted electronically in AERIN. Programs are to maintain assessment forms on file for three years. Any achievement or completion of goals should be documented. The following exceptions were noted:

- One participant's file did not contain evidence to support that goals were met as reported in AERIN.
- One participant file did not contain documentation of the Steck-Vaughn Official Practice Test scores averaging 450 prior to the participant taking the General Educational Development (GED).
- One participant file did not show documentation of having children when enrolled in the Family Literacy Program. The participant should have been enrolled in the Corrections Program.

### Recommendations

We recommend the program create a checklist for participant files to facilitate a periodic review of the contents to ensure that the required documentation is being maintained. The program should ensure that this checklist contains the different requirements for the different program types. The person entering participant data should require documentation for any data entry performed on a participant and any deficiencies should be reported to the Program Director.

Program Response – [A draft report was provided to program management to request their comments and any planned corrective actions related the finding. Program management was given a reasonable amount of time to adequately respond to this request.]

An instructor helped a student fill out her application and financial aid paperwork for enrollment in to MCTC. The instructor took her to Master Advising and helped her schedule classes.

All instructors have been informed that filling out application and financial aid papers is not sufficient to mark post-secondary education. Even though the instructor has helped fill out a schedule, this does not ensure enrollment. The instructor must document enrollment into post-secondary education with something from the college or university.

One participant was a correctional student. Because the transient nature of correctional students and reduced available GED testing dates, the instructor signed him up for the GED test based on only three OPT's and TABE test scores.

One participant was mistakenly entered as Family Literacy instead of Corrections. This was a data clerk entry mistake. The program manager will provide training to all staff concerning accuracy in AERIN. All data clerk specialists and instructors will be trained to make sure all data in AERIN is cross-referenced with all data in the student's file. This will ensure that data in AERIN is correct.

### PAYROLL AND STAFF REQUIREMENTS

### **Scope and Methodology**

A sample of payroll disbursements was judgmentally selected for payroll testing. Documentation of hours worked was examined for existence and approval. Personnel files were examined to verify that staff had received the required professional development training hours and had the proper educational credentials required for their position.

### **Findings**

No exceptions were noted.

### PURCHASING/EXPENDITURE COMPLIANCE

### **Scope and Methodology**

A sample of 7 expenditures, representing at least 20 percent of the total purchases, was selected judgmentally from the detailed general ledger. These expenditures were tested for authorization/approval, supporting documentation, and proper recording. We also verified that the expenditures were made during the grant period from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

### **Findings**

No exceptions were noted.

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REIMBURSEMENT COMPLIANCE

### Scope and Methodology

Professional development expenditures were tested for proper authorization, supporting documentation, and adherence to approved rates and reimbursement policies. A sample of 3 expenditures, representing at least 20 percent of the total professional development expenditures, was selected judgmentally from the detailed general ledger.

### **Findings**

No exceptions were noted.

#### INTERNAL CONTROLS RELATING TO GRANT

### **Scope and Methodology**

Maysville Community and Technical College's Program Director was given an Internal Control Questionnaire regarding the controls in place for expenditures, bank reconciliations, revenue, and payroll. The questionnaire was completed by the program director and/or the fiscal administrator and reviewed by the audit team for any significant control deficiencies.

### **Findings**

No significant control deficiencies were noted.